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## ALL IN VICTORIAN DRESS

# DEFENCES HOLD FIRM

**BANBURY'S** new flood defences have passed the test after the town and surrounding villages were hit by heavy rainfall, a flood boss said.

The £17m scheme had prevented homes and businesses being affected, the Environment Agency's David McKnight said.

Flood water was stored in a specially-dug embankment off Junction 11 of the M40 while walls and embankments protected properties.

Flood-risk specialist Mr McKnight said: "We are very happy that the defences are doing their job."

By Oliver Evans

"Without it, there would be significant disruption and I'm sure flooding of properties and businesses."

The storage area had up to a metre of water but is "nowhere near" full capacity, he said.

The scheme protects 400 homes and businesses at Trammere and Wildmere industrial estates.

Ben Sayer, spokesman for Wildmere motorsport Prodrive said: "I don't think the water is as high as it has been in the past but certainly the flood defences seem to be working well."

Yet Cherwell District Council closed its car parks at Spiceball North, Spiceball Park Road and The Mill Arts Centre as the River Cherwell swelled. They reopened on Tuesday.

The arts centre, which closed on Thursday after being hit by flood waters, was also due to reopen this week.

Mr McKnight said the Mill was in "very low spot" and was not brought into the flood defence scheme for technical reasons.

He said Spiceball Leisure Centre was not included as its flood risk was reduced when it was rebuilt on higher ground.

Last Thursday, eight homes in Bloxham flooded after two

brooks overflowed. Four homes in Adderbury were also hit.

A flood warning was put on the Sor Brook at Bodicote and Adderbury and the Bloxham Brook at Bloxham.

And five homes were flooded in Dog Close, Adderbury, on Monday, Oxfordshire County Council said.

By 11am water was flowing past the front of cottages in the village lane.

Adderbury Parish Council chairman Diane Bratt said: "It is not as bad as some of the flooding we had in 2007 but it is very unfortunate for those houses and properties that have been flooded."

At the time of going to press, a flood alert for the River Cherwell, from Charwelton to just above Upper Heyford, was still in force.

Chiltern Railways said flooding in Harbury, Warwickshire, cancelled two London trains from Banbury and slowed services last Wednesday afternoon.

Services in both directions were delayed by up to 30 minutes on Friday because of flooding from a blocked drain in Ardley Tunnel.

The operator said there were "no significant issues over the weekend".



**The flood defences: Huscote Flow Control Structure, next to the M40 at Banbury**

**InBRIEF****Hunt for driver**

**POLICE** are hunting a driver who broke through a road closure and smashed into several signs, bollards and a cable trailer. The driver of the silver or light-coloured VW Golf failed to stop at the scene following the incident at the Austin Drive and Riley Drive junction between 8.30pm and 9pm last Thursday. About £500 to £1,000 damage was caused. The car was extensively damaged and left glass from its headlights at the scene. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Banbury police station on 101.

**Transporter crash**

**CAR** transporter caused gridlock and delays of up to two hours when it overturned on the northbound carriageway of the M40 on Friday. The vehicle ended up on its side after colliding with the central reservation between Junction 11 and Junction 12 just before 10am. Tailbacks stretched as far back as Junction 9. Drivers reported being stuck for two hours. The driver was taken to Horton General Hospital, Banbury, with minor injuries. No-one else was hurt.

**Dog day afternoon**

**BANBURY** supporters group for Dogs for the Disabled, which is based in the town, will hold a Christmas craft fair on Saturday, December 1. The 11am-to-3pm event will be held at the Carrdus School, Overthorpe Hall, Blacklocks Hill. Admission will be £2.

**Charity that helps those hit by baby deaths**

# Service held for tragic parents

By Debbie Waite

**KAREN** Hancox and her husband, Neil, were shattered when their first daughter, Kayleigh, was stillborn in 2007.

On Sunday they joined other parents who had lost babies at a special service of remembrance.

Mrs Hancox, 34, from Banbury, a part-time teacher at Bloxham Primary School, will always consider herself a mum-of-three. But tragically her first child, Kayleigh, never opened her eyes.

Mrs Hancox said: "Kayleigh was born dead on November 4, 2007, while fireworks were exploding outside.

"It had been a textbook pregnancy. We had a nursery waiting for us at home.

"But we went home empty-handed and still do not know why Kayleigh died. Immense joy turned to our worst nightmare and overwhelming pain."

Mrs Hancox, a mum to two subsequent children, Charleigh Grace, almost three, and Konnor, 16 months, added: "My husband, Neil, and I received a great deal of support from the charity Oxfordshire Sands (Stillbirth and Neonatal Death) after Kayleigh's death.

"We went on to raise money for the charity in memory of Kayleigh in 2008, setting up The Angel Gifts Appeal,

which raised nearly £13,000 and led to us funding a baby memorial at the Snowdrop Garden at Hardwick Hill Crematorium. We also donated a foetal heart monitor to the Horton Hospital maternity unit."

Mrs Hancox became a befriender for Oxfordshire Sands and is now co-chairman of the charity.

Oxfordshire Sands provides a befriending service for parents who have lost babies and also provides Memory Boxes for parents when leaving the Horton and John Radcliffe hospitals. The charity is totally reliant on donations.

Mrs Hancox said: "Each year Sands

holds a baby remembrance service for bereaved parents, their families and friends.

"This year it was held on Sunday at St Anthony of Padua Church, in Headley Way, Oxford.

"It was an important way for parents, who have shared this terrible loss, to come together to celebrate and remember their precious babies with poems, personal experiences and music.

"The service was a mixture of secular and religious content to make it as inclusive as possible. There was also an opportunity to light candles for all our babies."

For more information on Sands, email info@oxfordsiresands.org.uk or visit oxfordshiresands.org.uk



## Developers push for 43 new homes in village

TWO planning applications have been submitted for 43 new homes in King's Sutton.

Barwood Homes wants to build 35 homes north of Hampton Drive, to include flood-alleviation works and 14 affordable homes.

Belgravia Land Ltd has applied to build eight homes at the back of Richmond Street.

South Northamptonshire Council will make a final decision.

In its application, Barwood said the council had "persistently" failed to meet housing targets.

It said 3,036 homes had been built since April 2001 against a target of 3,630 set out in the East Midlands Regional Plan.

It said: "This will make an important contribution towards satisfying the severe and immediate housing needs of the area."

And Belgravia claimed its scheme "would boost the local economy by providing the opportunity for a new earning population to be brought into the area".

King's Sutton Parish Council was not available for comment at the time of going to press.

It comes after SNC gave approval in May of the final details of a plan for 40 homes in Banbury Lane

## New items added to recycling collections

CARDBOARD food and drink cartons can now be included in household recycling collections in the Cherwell district.

The items can be added to recycling boxes thanks to a new contract between Cherwell District Council and waste firm UPM.

Its facilities can separate cardboard, plastic film and metal linings, which make up the containers.

Council lead member for clean and green Nigel Morris said: "More and more items can now go into kerbside recycling.

"We can take most types of plastic container, drinks cartons, and even batteries can now be left on top of the bin in a plastic bag for collection.

"But there are a number of items we cannot collect from homes including polystyrene, textiles and glass.

"Hopefully, in years to come, we will be able to include these items in our kerbside scheme but for the moment the technology does not allow this."

The changes mean facilities for recycling the cartons will be removed at three recycling sites.

These are at Bodicote House Car Park, Bodicote; Sainsbury's Car Park, Kidlington, and the Co-op, in Barberry Place, Bicester.

Meanwhile, those living in South Northamptonshire Council's area will get weekly food-waste collections from next summer.

It comes after the council was given £1.2m in Government cash as part of a nationwide drive to bring back weekly food collections.

Portfolio holder for environmental services Dermot Bambridge said: "This is fantastic news.

"It means we can go ahead with the planned enhancements to our collection services without putting an additional strain on our finances."

But deputy Cherwell leader George Reynolds said his authority had no plans to collect green waste, residual and packaging bins and boxes weekly.

He said: "We have 80 per cent satisfaction, I don't think it would help.

"If people want to get rid of their food waste they can do it weekly but it just goes into the residual bin."

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# It's a Corrie carry-on

## Stars switch on town's lights



HUNDREDS of people turned out in Banbury to see the town illuminated for the festive season.

*Coronation Street* stars Ryan Thomas and Jack Shepherd, who play Jason Grimshaw and David Platt in the TV soap, switched on the Banbury lights on Sunday.

Entertainment was provided by Robbie Williams tribute act, Paul Reason, who performed the singer's hit singles.

Banbury resident Melanie Andrews, 13, attended the event with her seven-year-old sister, Millie, and her best friend, Rebecca Watt, 13.

She said: "It was pretty good."

"You only get to see famous people in Banbury once a year, so it was good to meet them. They even spoke to us."

She added: "It was great to see so many people in Banbury and everyone was in a good, happy, joyful mood."



ABOVE: *Coronation Street* stars Ryan Thomas and Jack P Shepherd with officials. LEFT: Robbie Williams tribute act Paul Reason. FAR LEFT: Ryan Thomas meets fans



## Knife-threat raid

KNIFE-wielding robbers escaped with a "large sum" of cash following a raid on the 99p shop in Bridge Street, Banbury.

Two masked men approached the manager in his office at about 7.45pm on Monday, November 19, when staff were restocking shelves.

They threatened the manager with a knife and told him to open the safe.

The robbers left through the back of the shop with a large sum of cash, which they carried in bags marked with the logo "Loomis". Call DC McCamley on 101 or 0800 555111.

## Mugging: Man is charged

A 22-year-old man has appeared at Banbury Magistrates' Court on Monday, accused of robbery.

Martyn Brough, from Portway, Banbury, was charged with robbery, causing actual bodily harm, possession of a Class-B drug, escaping lawful custody and assault.

He was charged after a 22-

year-old man was assaulted in Moorfield Park, off West Street, Grimsbury, between 4pm and 4.30pm on Friday. The victim was robbed of his mobile phone and cash, and left with two fractures to his cheekbone.

Three other people, all from Banbury, were also arrested in connection with the robbery.

## Santa Fun Run - 9 Dec

Spiceball Park, Banbury



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# Rogue trader jailed after featuring on TV programme

# Conman who preyed on the vulnerable

A ROGUE trader who was uncovered on a BBC programme has been jailed for a year after conning nearly £8,000 from five vulnerable victims.

Jason Butcher claimed to be a qualified tree surgeon, overcharging five customers for gardening work, incomplete jobs or for work that did not need doing from August 2010 to March 2011.



Jailed:  
Trickster  
Jason  
Butcher

By Emma Harrison

The ages of those he conned ranged from 55 to 94 – including one woman who was suffering from Parkinson's Disease – and he was paid £7,915 in total.

Butcher, who traded under Oakland Tree Care, Oakland Tree Services and Country Tree Services, appeared on BBC

Rogue Traders on April 26, 2011. The 29-year-old – who had no formal qualifications – was seen in two sting operations claiming a tree had honey fungus, when it did not, and quoting inflated prices to actors.

Oxford Crown Court heard Butcher started his string of offences on August 13, 2010, when he knocked on the door of Kristeen Goodband, 73, of Banbury, and said her garden was overgrown.

She paid him £2,275 including £700 which she lent him after he said his strimmer was broken. A series of other offences followed in North Oxford, Carterton and Wallingford.

Steven Molloy, defending, said: "Although they are vulnerable victims, he has not set out to target elderly or vulnerable people."

"He does express contrition for what he has done."

Butcher, of Newlands Farm Caravan Site, in Milton Road, Bloxham, admitted one charge

of theft, five of fraud, six offences contrary to the proceeds of crime act and two contrary to unfair trading regulations.

Judge Mary Jane Mowat said: "This was a series of frauds – nasty frauds, with vulnerable victims. It has an adverse effect not just on the victims but on the public in general whose confidence in bona fide tradesmen is undermined."

Speaking after the sentencing, victim Mrs Goodband said: "I feel better he has been jailed but I would have preferred it to be longer sentence. He was horrendous."

Richard Webb, the county's trading standards, said: "We hope that this sentencing will act as a deterrent to others."

• Jason Butcher traded as Oakland Tree Care, Oakland Tree Services and Country Tree Services and has no connection to County Landscapes, of Minster Lovell, or any other Oxfordshire company trading under a similar name.

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## Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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# FIFTH CORNER



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# Hospitals braced for sickness bug

**BOSSES** at Oxfordshire hospitals have drawn up an action plan to tackle a winter vomiting bug, following an outbreak around the UK.

Hundreds of thousands of early cases of the highly contagious bug, norovirus, which causes severe vomiting and diarrhoea, have been identified across the country.

The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust said it hoped anyone with the symptoms would stay away from its wards.

Spokesman Richard Maynard said: "The trust has robust plans in place to help contain the virus, when it does occur, and to make sure it has the smallest possible effect on our patients."

"This includes limiting the movement of patients and staff within affected areas, and carrying out additional daily cleans in these wards and nearby areas."

Family and friends are advised not to visit patients if they feel unwell or have any symptoms of

**By Mark Taylor**

nausea or diarrhoea. If wards are affected, it will be clearly signposted and communicated to relatives and visitors."

Infection control bosses at the John Radcliffe Hospital said there were currently no official cases of norovirus in the hospital. However, the seasonal leap in cases nationally had begun earlier than usual.

Detection rates had been well above average for the last six weeks, according to the Health Protection Agency.

The figures were higher than at any point in the last five years.

In 2008, four wards at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, were closed after the decision was taken not to admit new patients to the four medical wards because a number of patients were suffering from norovirus.

The airborne bug is untreatable and extremely contagious, but not

usually harmful and is rarely fatal.

Researchers know little of the links between temperatures and the virus, but the bad summer and early cold snap are thought to have contributed.

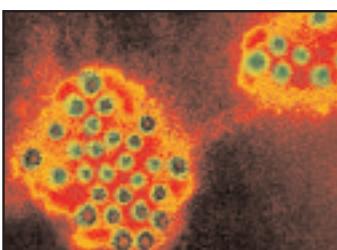
NHS Oxfordshire said catching norovirus could not always be avoided, but good hygiene could help to limit the virus spreading.

A spokesman said: "Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, particularly after using the toilet and before preparing food. Do not share towels and flannels."

"Disinfect any surfaces or objects that could be contaminated with the virus. It is best to use a bleach-based household cleaner. Wash any clothing or bedding that could have become contaminated with the virus."

"Wash the items separately and on a hot wash to ensure that the virus is killed."

Anyone who has caught the bug is advised to avoid contact with others.



Under the microscope:  
the winter vomiting bug

## InBRIEF

### Revealing local history

■ A new book, attempting to uncover ancient Oxfordshire's best-known legends, has been published.

For those who want to ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross or meet Geoffrey of Monmouth in the City of Dreaming Spires, *Oxfordshire Folk Tales*, published by The History Press, is on shelves from December.

## Fire chiefs highlight chip pan dangers

A CHIP pan blaze in Banbury prompted a warning from fire chiefs about leaving cookers unattended.

Disaster was only averted by a female resident who placed a damp tea towel over the fire.

However, large volumes of smoke quickly spread through the house.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, November 20, while the woman was at home with her child.

Although nobody was seriously hurt, the woman was given oxygen at the scene and then handed over to South Central Ambulance Service for further examination.

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## News In BRIEF

### Auction for sport fans

■ A SIGNED Newcastle United shirt is among lots in a charity auction to be held at The George and Dragon tomorrow. The 2005 shirt will be auctioned for Adderbury's Katharine House Hospice at 9.30pm. Other prizes include two tickets for the British Superbike Championship or British Touring Car Championship.

### Village homes debate

■ THE first meeting on a bid to draw up a neighbourhood plan to influence future development in Adderbury was attended by 120 people last week. The parish council hosted the meeting at St Mary's Church last Thursday. It hopes the plan – part of Government reforms aimed at giving communities more power – will impact on the number and type of homes and other development in the village. Chairman Diane Bratt said: "We are very pleased with the public turnout. On the whole, everybody was supportive."

### Charity's open event

■ MENTAL health charity Restore will hold an open event at its HQ at The Warehouse, Calthorpe Street, Banbury, on Saturday. The charity – which helps people through activities like gardening and woodwork – will hold the event from 11am to 4pm. It will include Christmas cards and gifts, mince pies and mulled punch, games and free tea and coffee.

### Victorian market date

■ THE first Victorian Market will be held in Banbury Town Centre on Friday, December 7, from 9am to 8pm. The event – organised with Cherwell District Council – will see traders dress in period costume and will feature street entertainment.

# Bid to put Cherwell businesses under the spotlight

# Firms urged to enter for business awards

#### THE 2013 Cherwell Business Awards, now in its second year, is again open for entries.

Firms across Cherwell are being urged to take part. They have until January 31 to enter.

Shortlisting will take place in February and the awards ceremony and gala dinner will be held at Rye Hill Golf Club, in Milcombe, near Banbury, on Friday, April 19.

The event is being organised by a partnership of Cherwell District Council, Banbury and Bicester Chambers of Commerce, Spratt Endicott Solicitors and Bicester Vision.

Norman Bolster, Cherwell District Council's estates and the economy chief, said: "Our first year was extremely successful and we would like to make sure we build on that.

"Cherwell is a hotbed of innovation and success, which is

#### By Sam McGregor

something we should all be standing up and shouting about.

"These awards not only give firms across the district a chance to shine but also offer a valuable networking opportunity.

"It is also a wonderful way to reward staff who are the backbone of business and without whom we would not enjoy such high levels of achievement."

Among the categories are small business, tourism, hospitality and leisure, large business, exporter of the year, new business, business person of the year, innovation, community and training and staff care award.

Finalists also gain automatic entry to the second stage of the Oxfordshire Business Awards — this



Norman Bolster

said: "It is fantastic to be able to reward some of the many great businesses that operate in the Cherwell area.

"Last year's awards were a huge success, with a wide variety of businesses from across the district entering.

"We want to encourage as many local businesses as possible to enter, to ensure the best of business in our area is recognised and celebrated."

Ben Jackson, president of Bicester Chamber of Commerce, said: "The awards last year delivered some great exposure for the entrants and finalists."

"Entering for 2013 is a really good way of getting your business noticed and takes very little effort. Have a go, you never know."

For more information email [karen.matthews@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.matthews@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or call Karen on 01295 221855.

## Railway station's CCTV captures thief walking off with charity box

THIS is the moment a "callous and heartless" thief stole one of three dog-shaped charity boxes from two Oxfordshire rail stations.

The CCTV image shows the man taking a three-foot high Guide Dogs collection box from the station's platform.

The boxes, which raise funds to provide mobility for people who are blind and partially sighted, were taken between Friday, November 9, and Tuesday, November 13, from Banbury and Bicester stations.

British Transport Police investigating officer Gary Archer, said that a box was also taken from Banbury station sometime between Friday, November 9, and Tuesday, November 13.

Mr Archer added: "This is a sad case that has seen charity

boxes taken from a public space. These callous thefts are simply unacceptable and when the victim is a charity, it makes the thefts particularly heinous."

Graham Kensett, mobility team manager for Guide Dogs, said: "This was a particularly heartless crime as the money that was stolen was given to Guide Dogs by the public to help blind and partially sighted people."

"We rely on donations to fund our work which transforms the lives of thousands of people who are living with sight loss."

It is not known how much was in the charity boxes, but could have been up to £300 in each.

Contact British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



## Anger at changes to rail timetable

CHILTERN Railways has stood by a "difficult" decision to cut back non-stop rush hour trains between Banbury and London Marylebone.

It said the weekday change was needed to take demand from major new housing development in Bicester.

At the moment, the 7.11am service gets in at 8.06am and the 7.17am leaves for a 8.24am arrival. Both are non-stop.

But changes from December 9 will instead see a 6.58am service which gets in at 8am and a 7.24am service for 8.28am. Both will stop at Bicester North.

Fisher Close, Banbury resident Nick Moore said: "In order to arrive in London just two minutes earlier

than I currently do, I will have to leave home 15 minutes earlier to catch the 06.58 – that will take one hour and two minutes."

This will be "even worse" at night as the 5.07pm train, which gets in at 6.04pm, will be replaced by a 5.18pm that arrives at 6.20pm, he said.

"I will honestly have to spend 30 minutes longer each day out of the house – over two hours per week."

He said: "It is a complete betrayal of a town that is going places and is becoming increasingly popular to commuters."

Chiltern customer service director Jennifer Payne said the station "has always been a key station at the heart of the Chiltern

network".

She said: "In the new timetable the town continues to benefit from non-stop trains throughout the day, albeit, they will be at different times to those at present as we have restructured the entire timetable."

She said of morning changes: "This difficult decision was taken in view of the extensive housebuilding programme that is going on in the Bicester area."

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry, who is taking up the issue with the operator, said: "I don't think it is acceptable that the excuse for any deterioration of service at Banbury is that this is in some way to improve services for Bicester."



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# Alert over danger of borrowing fire alarm batteries

PARENTS who pluck the batteries from smoke alarms to power remote controls are endangering their children's lives, according to a county fire chief.

Oxfordshire's chief fire officer, Dave Etheridge, emphasised the need for all homes to have a working smoke alarm during a discussion about the fire service's five-year "risk management plan".

His comments came after councillors were given a report which showed that only four in ten of the 346 homes visited by firefighters in 2011/12, had a working

smoke alarm. Liberal Democrat councillor John Goddard said: "These figures are not due to anything we've done wrong."

"They are due to irresponsibility and ignorance on the part of the public."

"I think it needs to be hammered hard into them that they need a working smoke alarm."

Mr Etheridge said the service did what it could, offering free home visits to test fire safety, and free smoke alarms with batteries that could not be used in other devices. But he said homeowners also needed to take

action to protect themselves and their families.

He said: "The key thing is personal responsibility."

"We can only do so much."

"I think people need to make a decision as to whether turning over the channel on their TV is more important than keeping their kids safe at night."

The "risk management plan" identifies potential fire-related risks which the service could face over the next five years, and ways to mitigate against them.

## Illegal alcohol and tobacco seized in operation

# Crackdown by customs team

ILLEGAL alcohol and tobacco have been seized in a crackdown on fraud in Oxfordshire.

The smuggled or counterfeit goods were found during a series of raids by officers from HM Revenue & Customs and trading standards in Banbury.

A recent two-day operation saw 42,853 cigarettes, 22.15kg of tobacco and 20 bottles of

By Banbury reporter

spirits seized.

In total they are worth an estimated £14,793 in evaded duty and VAT and were removed from 12 business and residential premises.

Customs spokesman Bob Gaiger said: "Alcohol and tobacco fraud harms honest businesses, costs jobs, and takes

money away from public services. Increasingly, this activity is run by highly-organised criminal gangs."

Richard Webb, who is the head of Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards service, said: "We are concerned about the levels of counterfeit alcohol found in the county and are tackling the problem by investigating complaints, being proactive in



Richard Webb

advising businesses on steps to take to avoid buying counterfeit products and removing suspect products from sale, and advising consumers on what to look out for."

No arrests have been made, but investigations are ongoing.

Officials warned a number of shops might now lose their alcohol licences as a result of the raids, but they refused to say which ones.

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# Where the girls are boys...

By Katherine MacAlister

**A** MY Rhiannon Worth is a panto pro, and more than able to fill the thigh-high boots of Prince Charming. She was picked from the 1,400 hopefuls who auditioned for the part and is the first woman to play the principal boy's role in Chipping Norton's history. Progress indeed.

"Having a girl playing the boy is traditional and a dying art form, so I'm really enjoying it," she said. Not that the 36-year-old will be alone, because this year the show has clocked up a wonderfully female dominated line-up with the Ugly Sisters (if you count them as 'girls!') and the prince's assistant, Dandini, also being a girl.

"There are some men, but it is girl-heavy this year, so I suppose it is a bit topsy-turvy," Amy laughs.

Because not only are the men being played as women, but *Cinderella* is set in Venice, so it really is quite magical.

Having played the principal boy three times before, and really enjoyed each and every one, Chippy is still a first for Amy.

Even so, 80 shows is a long run? "Yes it's a big commitment, but you just have to get on with it and enjoy it. Pantomime has to be a high-energy-style of delivery and I do really, really enjoy it."

So how does she work her magic? "The thigh-high boots and leggings help," she laughs.

"And comedy is a big part of it. So, if you are able to play with that and enjoy a bit of banter, that's part and parcel of panto. You just have to roll with it."

"The script is great, which helps because panto also has a message. While everybody is there for a good time, there is the *Cinderella* and Prince Charming story to tell as well."

But aren't children a notoriously difficult audience to work with? "You don't want them to lose concentration, so you have to engage them," she says simply, "and then the kids always enjoy it and get stuck in."

But does 80 performances and only Christmas Day off, mean Amy has more in common with Cinders than she thought?

"As an actress you'd always rather be working than not. There are enough actors 'resting' out there already."



## Pantomime time again at The Theatre, Chipping Norton

"I just want people to be entertained and enjoy themselves."

Lizzie Franks isn't remotely fazed by her star role in *Cinderella* at Chippy, seeing it more as a dream come true than anything to be worried about.

"Chipping Norton is part of a great tradition of pantomime, renowned for its top quality production."

And having played a big black cat in *Dick Whittington* last year, she is well versed in panto. "Yes, I had to wear a big fluffy onesie last year, so having three girly dresses and costume changes is really great fun," she admits. "I was such a girly

girl that my parents still buy me everything in pink. I remember the Disney *Cinderella* and have the same three dresses to wear – rags, ball and wedding."

But Lizzie is concentrating on the storyline more than anything else.

She said: "*Cinderella* really does feel this is her first encounter with love and it's a big emotional time which really, really overwhelms her. I try to concentrate on the story, even though I play the saxophone and dance and sing as well. I just try to find the truth in it because I think that's a really important part of it."

"I've done a lot of children's theatre in the past and one of the most exciting things for me is the world we are creating, because children so believe the fantasy is real."

"When you look out at the audience and they are all wide-eyed and silent, you know it's because they really believe it."

"Even when I was a giant cat in *Dick Whittington*, they thought I was real," she laughs.

And with a panto and two Christmas shows under the 25-year-old's belt, Lizzie knows what's she's in for.

"It's a mental as much as a physical challenge," she tells me, "so if you are living in that world for eight weeks you just have to find a way to distance yourself from it and just top up your energy when you need to."

So how does she keep going? "Lots of fish and chips," Lizzie giggles.

"To start with I'm really good and eat well and try to stay healthy, but after a while you just need carbs and chocolate."

And is she worried about homesickness?

"I'm a country bumpkin at heart, even though I live in London now. I think I'll feel right at home here in Chippy," she said.

Another happy ending then.

**Cinderella**, Chipping Norton's 40th anniversary pantomime, is at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, and runs until Sunday, January 6. Call 01608 642350 or book online at [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com)



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# Shock for leaders

BANBURY United fired a four-goal salvo to smash Premier Division leaders Hemel Hempstead Town's unbeaten away record at Spencer Stadium on Saturday.

There was no sign of what was to follow as Hemel started brightly with Banbury keeper Dean Coleman tipping a shot around a post in the first minute.

But Banbury made the breakthrough in the 14th minute when Tom Lorraine surged forward before unleashing a fierce shot from 25 yards which Mark Osborn got his hands to, but couldn't prevent it from going into the net.

Kynan Isaac then saw Osborn turn away his shot away for a corner, before he drilled another effort just wide.

Banbury's Albi Skendi then had a header disallowed for offside before the break.

But Banbury doubled their lead on 64 minutes when Skendi robbed a Hemel defender just outside the visitors' penalty area before

\*10pts deducted

**Banbury Utd** 4  
(Lorraine 14, Skendi 64,  
Talabi pen 69, 79)

**Hemel Hempstead** 0

shooting past the onrushing Osborn.

Five minutes later, Banbury were 3-0 up. Wayne Blossom was brought down inside the area, and Adeyinka Talabi smashed home the resulting penalty.

Banbury were now rampant, and in the 79th minute a quick break saw Talabi pick the ball up in the centre circle before racing through on goal and lifting his shot over Osborn.

**Banbury Utd:** Coleman, Cray, Martin, Blossom, Ashton, Agymen-Prempeh, Lorraine (Dumbleton 90), Plowright, Skendi, Isaac, Talabi. Subs not used: Jackson, Hilaire, Lunzitisa, Jeffrey.

Attendance: 123.



Banbury United's two-goal hero, Adeyinka Talabi, beats Hemel Hempstead Town's David King only to see the ball go out of play

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St Neots	16	9	2	5	39	30	29
Stourbridge	17	7	5	5	37	20	26
Barwell	14	7	4	3	29	18	25
St Albans C	17	7	3	7	30	29	24
Cambridge C	14	8	0	6	22	21	24
Bedford T	16	6	4	7	16	26	22
Bedworth Utd	17	6	4	7	26	21	21
AFC Totton	13	6	3	4	26	21	21
Arlesey T	13	6	2	5	17	16	20
Bashey	16	6	2	7	20	28	20
Chippingham T	16	5	4	7	18	22	19
Frome T	15	5	4	6	16	20	19
Redditch Utd	16	5	4	7	14	21	19
<b>Banbury Utd</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>
Chesham Utd	14	4	5	5	15	20	17
Weymouth	15	4	5	6	24	30	17
Gosport Boro	15	3	6	6	23	23	15
Bideford	15	4	2	9	21	35	14
Hitchin T	13	4	1	8	19	22	13
Kettering T	13	0	5	8	8	26	-5

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# Battling for a belief

**RISE OF THE GUARDIANS**  
(PG, 97 mins)  
Animation/Action/Comedy.  
Featuring the voices of Chris Pine, Alec Baldwin, Hugh Jackman, Isla Fisher, Jude Law, Dakota Goyo. Director: Peter Ramsey.

**M**any of the benevolent icons of childhood innocence are the universally-adored faces of capitalism and greed.

Father Christmas rewards well-behaved children with expensive gifts, the Tooth Fairy marks the loss of an incisor with money under the pillow and the Easter Bunny reduces an important Christian festival to a carnival of cocoa-smothered excess.

So it seems fitting that the computer-animated fantasy *Rise Of The Guardians* should imagine a world in which children suddenly stop believing in these idols simply because there are no brightly coloured parcels under the Christmas tree or chocolate eggs hidden in their garden.

Without proof, in the form of material or financial reward, impressionable young minds turn their backs on centuries of myth and legend.

Based on *The Guardians Of Childhood* book series by William Joyce, Peter Ramsey's entertaining family-oriented film is a timely reminder that there are many things without rigorous scientific proof that still touch our hearts and change our humdrum lives for the better.

Screening in 3D in

selected cinemas, *Rise Of The Guardians* boasts a pleasing mix of action, adventure and comedy – the latter courtesy of Santa's army of expressive elves – that should stoke younger audiences' sense of wonder as they stuff their faces with popcorn.

The film is narrated by Jack Frost (voiced by Chris Pine), who emerges from a frozen lake without any memory of the past.

At the North Pole, Santa Claus (Alec Baldwin) and his elves are hard at work when darkness flashes across his map of the Earth.

"The bogeyman was here," Santa tells his fellow guardians Easter Bunny (Hugh Jackman), Tooth Fairy (Isla Fisher) and Sandman, who refuse to believe that Pitch Black (Jude Law) has risen to challenge their supremacy with his hideous nightmares.

Once the threat posed by Pitch Black becomes

terrifyingly real, the guardians prepare to welcome a new recruit to their fold: Jack Frost.

Pitch Black gains in strength and the children of the world turn their backs on Santa, Easter Bunny, Tooth Fairy and Sandman until just one boy, Jamie (Dakota Goyo), believes.

Everything rests on Jack achieving his destiny but he is haunted by the past he cannot recall.

*Rise Of The Guardians* unfolds at a brisk pace, with eye-popping action sequences.

Law is a lacklustre villain but other vocal performances are solid and Jackman trades dry Antipodean wit as the macho bunny with a bonzer boomerang.

Visuals lack the meticulous detail and complexity of Pixar's recent offerings but colour radiates from the screen and director Ramsey combines the various elements with confidence.



Above and left: Scenes from the film, *Rise of the Guardians*



## CakeWhat's on

### Music

**SATURDAY:** Banbury Town Hall holds its annual Celebration of Christmas with all the seasonal trimmings – mulled wine, mince pies, traditional carols, music, readings – and will be set amid stunning Christmas decorations in the hall's main upstairs gallery. The candlelit event is being organised by Banbury Town Council and tickets are £5 from the town hall. Money raised at the concert will go to local charities. Doors open on the night at 6pm for a 6.30pm start, and the concert will last for about one hour.

### Festival heads-up

**NOW:** Tickets for the tenth *Corbury Festival* go on sale today with earlybird savings of £35 off a weekend camping ticket. The line-up for the sure-to-be-sold-out event (tickets were gone in less than five days last year) from July 5-7 next year is still under wraps

but there will be subsidised bus services leaving from Banbury station. Visit [corburyfestival.com](http://corburyfestival.com) or call 0844 338 0000.

### Cinema

**Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury:** Rise of the Guardians, PG, daily 4pm\*; (3-D), Sat-Sun 11.10am\*, daily 1.30\*, 6.30pm\*. Skyfall, 12A daily 8.45pm\* (subtitled Thu). The Twilight Saga - Breaking Dawn Part II, 12A, daily 5, 8pm. Nativity II – Danger in the Manger, U, Sat-Sun 12.30pm, daily 2.45pm. Senior Screen: Hope Springs, 12A, Wed 11am\*. Odeon Kids: Paranorman, PG, Sat-Sun 10.30am. Box office: 0871 224 4007.

### Theatre

**The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:** Until Dec 1, *Calendar Girls*. Performed by the Banbury Cross Players. 7.45pm. £8.50 / £7.50. Dec 2, Robin Ince and Michael Legge: *Pointless Anger*, Righteous

Ire. 7pm. £14/£12 concessions. Dec 6, *Remember When At Christmas*. 2pm. £12, concession £10.

Dec 7, *The Nutcracker*. Vienna Festival Ballet. 4.45pm, and 7pm. £19/£16 concessions/£12 for 16years and younger.

Box office: 01295 279002. **The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:** Until Jan 6, *Cinderella* by Ben Crocker. Tickets £18 (concession £13.50); £21 (conc £18); £23 and £25 (no conc). Standing £5.

Concessions for under-16s, over-60s and benefit claimants. (Performances 10.15am, 1.45pm all tickets £11).

Nov 30, John Suchet, *Beethoven - The Man Revealed*. 7pm. £10. Box office: 01608 642350.

### Events

**SATURDAY:** Art and Craft Fair: Town Hall, Market Place, Chipping Norton. Open 10am-5pm. Free admission.

## STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times



### ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

With this week's line up you are taking on a whole new personality which I must say is not the most understanding one I have seen! Please think twice about how you talk to loved ones, your words will be carrying far more weight than you may imagine. A work matter midweek will demand a professional attitude. Ring me right now so I can get you in the right mind set.

**0906 585 4360**

### LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Make time to do some very clever research so that you can obtain extra funds that you are seeking Aries. You and a loved one may be at loggerheads over something that you feel very strongly about but you are going to have to give a little leeway if you are to leave them room to apologise. Phone now to hear how media avenues make your life a more interesting place to be.

**0906 585 4366**

### TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

A worry or stress that you have experienced with a friend is being blown out of all proportion and you must talk yourself if you would expect to be judged so harshly, should the situation be reversed. You may regret any sentence you cast on close ones when this very harsh mood has passed so try to steer clear of anyone you know can rile you. Phone me now for hot gossip.

**0906 585 4361**

### SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Aries help financial issues. The planets are going to be giving you the upper hand so that you may sort out the differences you've been experiencing with a loved one. You want control yet you long to be taken care of. It's no wonder close ones get confused. You must try to think a little more before you speak and then you will not be left with such a mess to clear up afterwards. Ring now for advice.

**0906 585 4367**

### GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Loved ones are interfering in what you had thought to be a very personal matter. However they are only trying to show you how much they care for you and you must not take offence. The tricky aspect occurring this week is going to be making it easy for you to deduce the wrong meanings from others' words. Call now to grasp the structure Saturn can offer to you.

**0906 585 4362**

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

The changes that you are waiting for may be a little longer in arriving I'm afraid as the planets place delays and limitations on us all this week. The stars will be showing our selfish natures on Tuesdays as we say and do what we want and not what others are waiting for, so don't hold your breath for a phone call or communication. Friday is the day of revolutions for you. Ring now to find out why.

**0906 585 4368**

### CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You don't appear to have the cash you need to proceed with some rather exciting and exciting plans. There are alternatives you know Cancer, you just need to be a bit more creative and seem to allow you to see that. If you can listen carefully then you can learn of some new opportunities opening up in a field of work that you have long wanted to get involved in. Phone now for answers to your worries.

**0906 585 4363**

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

It seems you don't know what to do about the mess that your love life appears to have gotten into. Well, whatever your plan, the answer is to take a deep breath and then do what has passed. Keep your mind on your own life and arrangements and not on others' and you will find out the facts that you seem so determined to uncover. Phone now to hear how you can get the apology you are owed.

**0906 585 4369**

### LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Your time is not your own this weekend but I am sure you will make up for any fun you have missed out on later in the week. Please don't leave any business matters unfinished or you may have to pay for your laziness later. Take a new relationship at an extremely slow pace. There is much to be learnt and enjoyed by biding your time my friend. Ring now for the full story.

**0906 585 4364**

### AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You must stop pushing a work contact for information that you are not even sure if they have or not. You have more power at your fingertips than you realise and a task that you are going to be asked to perform will prove just that on Thursday, so hold fire and keep your cool or you will miss the opportunity you have been waiting for. Phone now to hear who can't get you off their mind.

**0906 585 4370**

### VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Gossip which you have been hearing in the workplace looks to be true as you discover at last just what options are and are not available to you. An offer from an old contact of some sort is not as straightforward as it first seemed, so be careful whom you tell. Don't let down a younger person at the weekend. There's fun to be had if you let down those defences though. Ring now for your week in full.

**0906 585 4365**

### PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

I know this is a very emotional time for you and you may find yourself saying things that you know deep down you don't really mean. If you are trying to test a loved one's loyalty, then don't bother. I can assure you, they wouldn't be with you if they didn't care. Money matters start off perplexing but should be made clearer by Friday, to a most pleasing end to Pisces. Phone me now for the full story this week.

**0906 585 4371**

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 ► business ► notices ► jobs ► motors ► property

# CLASSIFIED

## 01295 256111

### Birthdays

#### 1st Birthday

**Happy Birthday**  
Maisie Deering



Happy 1st Birthday  
Gorgeous Girl!  
Lots of love, Mummy,  
Daddy and Archie  
xxx

#### 18th Birthday

**HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY  
23RD NOVEMBER**

**KATIE GEMMA WICKHAM**

To My Amazing and Beautiful Girlfriend.  
I Hope You Have a Great Day and  
Get Everything  
You Wanted and More.

I Love You  
Baby Forever and a Day.  
Happy Birthday Princess!

All My Love,  
Hugs and Kisses  
xxx Ryan xxx

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IN BANKRUPTCY  
BANBURY COUNTY COURT

NO. 215 OF 2007 RE:  
JEMIMA HOLLY CONNELLY

Of 5 Maple Close, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9HA - Food Technician, also known as JEMIMA HOLLY GARROD, lately residing at 40 Princethorpe Drive, Banbury, Oxon OX16 4FS. D.O.B.: 14 March 1975

I intend to pay within four months from 28 December 2012 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 0.20 p/£.

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Mrs L Thomas, Official Receiver and trustee

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Peugeot

## PEUGEOT 306 ESTATE



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01985 218943 / 07504 766017

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## JOBS

# CATERHAM F1

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We are also looking to recruit for our metal working machine shop, experience of Fanuc and Heidenhain controls with a similar Aerospace Automotive background working with titanium's and other exotic materials to tight deadlines, with the ability to understand and read technical drawings and work to exacting standards.

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Position available for an experienced Vehicle Dynamics Engineer. The successful candidate will need to demonstrate a thorough understanding of vehicle dynamics principles and their application within F1 racing. They should have experience and knowledge in ride and handling, suspension kinematics and compliance, influence of aerodynamics and tyre characteristics.

The applicant should have experience in the development of in-house vehicle simulation software, including vehicle model development and correlation to test and on-track data. The successful candidate will have significant experience using multi-body dynamics software, Matlab/Simulink and ATLAS.

Previous experience in the support of suspension rig testing, HIL and on-track vehicle development would be advantageous. Previous Formula 1 experience required. Qualification Required MSc level, or similar, in engineering with specific motorsport and vehicle dynamics focus.

### Composites Pattern Technicians CF1/CPAT/140/12

Due to expansion, Caterham F1 is looking for full-time Composites Pattern Technicians to join their F1 effort. Reporting to the Head of Composites Production, the successful candidate will provide pattern making, finishing and blocking-up support to the Composites Department. The ability to work well within a team, whilst also requiring minimal supervision is a necessity, along with a flexible approach to working hours. The successful candidates will be expected to produce high quality components to tight deadlines, working from supplied drawings and work instructions. Previous F1 experience is preferred.

### Cam Engineer CF1/CAME/141/12

With experience in all aspects of offline 3 and 5 Axis programming. Previous Experience in toolpathing to machine patterns and moulds in epoxy materials and Composite components. Users of Open Mind Hypermill and Vericut software an Advantage, although full training will be provided where required for the right Calibre of candidate. Shift work will be required.

If you wish to be considered for these posts, please email [hr@caterhamf1.com](mailto:hr@caterhamf1.com) quoting the reference number, attaching an up to date CV and indicating your salary expectations.

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01 51	FORD MONDEO 1.8 ZETEC, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£11	£2299
02 02	PEUGEOT 106 1.1 INDEPENDENCE, 3 Door, Blue, CD, Ideal First Car	£11	£2299
02 52	ROVER 75 1.8 AUTO, Black, Full Cream Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys	£9	£1999

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07 07	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.2 AUTOMATIC, New Shape, Silver, 7 Seats, A/C, ½ Leather, CD	£28	£5999
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02 52	HONDA STREAM 1.7 SE 7 SEAT, White, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags, Elec Windows	£19	£3999
01 1Y	LANDROVER FREELANDER 2.0 TD4 DIESEL GS, Bright Blue, A/C, Alloys, Airbag, Elec Windows	£17	£3699
05 55	NISSAN ALMERA TINO S AUTOMATIC, Silver, ½ Leather, A/C, CD, Alloys, Airbags	£16	£3499
03 03	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 XSE, 5 Door, Silver, A/C, CD, Low Range, Gear Box, Airbags, Elec Windows	£15	£3299
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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 324 - 88g/km.

\*Corus Limited Edition £2800 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £185. †Astra GTC Sport £5500 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £209. Model shown has 19 inch alloy wheels available at an extra cost. \*Corus SXi £2780 customer deposit followed by 60 monthly payments of £179. Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line models, Astra BiTurbo 5dr and Sports Tourer models, Ampera or VXR8. Vauxhall Deposit Contribution not available on ADAM, Corsa SXi or Mokka. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee or Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH11SR or Vauxhall Finance. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals. Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 17 December 2012. \*Term can be from 24-60 months, except ADAM (24-48 months). \*\*Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21-75 (motor policy only). Drivers must have held a valid full UK license for a minimum of 2 years. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd.